

LOCAL I-S NEWS

for department store workers

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264

FEBRUARY 1, 1952



Members of Local I-S listen intently as their President, Sam Kovenetsky lists the achievements of 1951 and sets the course for 1952. The President's report received wholehearted and unanimous support.

Record 2½% Dividend Voted By 1-S Federal Credit Union

In a spectacular offer of proof that the Local I-S Federal Credit Union has grown and prospered since it was formed a year and a half ago, the membership, at the recommendation of the officers unanimously approved a 2½% dividend on each five dollar share on deposit. That rate of interest is higher than is paid by any savings bank in the State of New York with the exception of other Federally chartered banks.

The 2½% dividend assures many members who are both borrowers and savers that they receive more interest on deposits than they pay out on loans.

Jack Schultz, in his Treasurer's report, showed that the Credit Union now has more than 1200 depositors with more than \$45,000 in savings and close to 500 borrowers owing almost \$35,000. The Credit Union has more than \$13,000 in cash which is available for loans.

Officers Elected

The following officers were elected to head the Credit Union for one year term: Sam Kovenetsky, President; Elizabeth Hammond, Vice President; Jack Schultz, Treasurer and Kay Arendt, Secretary.

On the Credit Union's Board of

Directors for terms ranging from one to three years are: Sam Kovenetsky, Elizabeth Hammond, Jack Schultz (20), Kay Arendt (Rev.)

Also Anthony Burns (33), Beris Gordon (full time CU employee), Agnes Wagner (Tables), Polly Brooks (139), Jack Toucey (White Plains), Charles Metz (Jamaica) and Dorothy Gilmore (13).

Elected to the Credit Committee were: Ernest Drucker (10 Manuf.), Otto Doempke (161) and Charles Boyd (249).

Harry Liebowitz (Mfg.) and Arne Nielsen (Receiving) were elected to the Supervisory Committee. A third member will be named to this group.

Dick Pastor was elected Education Director, with a committee to be formed to promote a further understanding of Credit Unions.

In his report to the membership on behalf of the Board of Directors President Kovenetsky said, "We have received the praise of the Federal agency for the growth and skillful handling of our Credit Union. We fully expect to keep on growing."

Max Wald (Receiving) was the

maker of a unanimously adopted motion of "thanks to the officers and committee members for their skill and devotion in guiding the Local I-S Credit Union in its successful growth."

As a non-profit organization, operating under the supervision of the Federal government, the Local I-S Credit Union confidently expects that dividend payments will rise and interest charges decline as its membership grows.

Additional Credit Union information may be gotten from any of the above officers and committee members or at the Credit Union office at 290 Seventh Avenue.

1-S Polio Fund Campaign Aims For Record Feb. 21st

The Executive Board of Local I-S voted unanimously to throw the Union's full support behind the 1952 March of Dimes.

The Polio Foundation, caring for a 1-S member stricken a little more than one year ago, has already spent \$3,569 on his medical and hospital bills. The Foundation's social service agency has placed its services at the disposal of the member's wife and young family. The amount spent to date on this one victim, almost equals the total amount contributed by members of our Union in the last two years.

Said President Sam Kovenetsky,

"State of Union" High, 1-S President Reports

Thunderous applause and rousing cheers answered 1-S President Sam Kovenetsky when he asked, "Are you for it?" at the end of a speech that added up the accomplishments of year 1951 and pointed

ed to the coming fight for a general wage increase, a reduction of hours to 35 per week and other changes in the contract.

The members, who crowded into the large Manhattan Center auditorium left no doubt in anyone's mind that they are prepared to back to the limit the fighting program of their Local I-S, which has already chalked up some of the most important gains in the retail field.

Sam Kovenetsky's annual "State of the Union" message pointed up to the fact that in 1951 Local I-S extended its influence over promotions to a degree that it never had reached before. In the last twelve months the Union has fully developed the system under which all intended promotions are reviewed by the Union in order to guarantee that a worker's seniority is being respected by the company. "In the course of the year," the Local's President said, "the Union was forced to challenge a large percentage of management's proposals because they did not respect worker's rights."

In his report, Sam Kovenetsky acknowledged the fighting determination of the men and women who, during 1951 had stopped work after all other efforts to force management to respect the contract had failed.

The President called attention to (Continued on Page 2)

Members Hail Union Victory On Relief Pay

In a dramatic surrender to the strength and logic of the Union's argument Macy management, including Jamaica's (I'm right, they're wrong) Manager Cukor, agreed that more than 500 men and women employed in the Herald Square Basement and in the Jamaica store are entitled to the relief period they were done out of on Election Day.

With the Union ready to take the fight to arbitration, management yielded and agreed to schedule the additional time off. This concession went far beyond their original promise that "it would never happen again."

Said Jamaica Store Administrator Pat Favoino, "This is terrific! Management hasn't been caught so far off base in a long time, and the people are really excited about this victory."

Basement Floor Committee Chairman Lou Cotti said, "The first word we had of the settlement was when the Divisional Superintendent rushed to say 'you people won a victory on the Election Day relief period. You'll get it!' Lots of our own members didn't think we could win this one, but thanks to our officers and administrators we did. It is wonderful!"

Three Free Tax Aid Dates Set

Local I-S accountant Lew Goltz and his associate will be on hand at the Union office, 290 Seventh Avenue, on three days in the month of February and March to assist Union members with their income tax returns due not later than March 15th.

Because efficiently completed returns can save tax payers considerable sums of money, the Union has made this arrangement with Mr. Goltz as a service to its members.

The Tax Consultants will be at the Union office on Wednesday, February 20 and 27 and March 5 from 4:30 P.M. on. There is no charge for their services.

Mr. Goltz reminds members wishing to take advantage of this opportunity that, "you must have with you the Withholding Statement for the year 1951 given you by the company. This is our official record of the amount you have already paid in income tax. Be sure to bring it." Tax forms will be available.

DON'T FORGET

THE UNION'S NEW ADDRESS

290 — 7th AVENUE, BETWEEN 26th and 27th STREET.

THE NEW PHONE NUMBER IS WATKINS 4-4540

clip this box and save it for future reference

"Behind Closed Doors" — The Inside Story Of Life Around the Negotiations Table

By Vice-President GEORGE GURIAN

Although it has been a Local 1-S practice of long standing to keep the entire membership fully informed of the progress of negotiations, we know that there are many who would like a glimpse of what goes on behind the closed doors at a meeting of their negotiating committee with management.

Leaflets, bulletins and our Local 1-S NEWS are all used to keep each member up to date on specific progress, but I will try here to briefly describe what has taken place in previous years, so that when you hear that wage and hour talks have begun again, you will have some idea of what is going on.

At the outset of negotiations we have become accustomed to management's representative making a little speech about how sorry he is that the company is not in a position to make any changes in wages and working conditions. This talk is intended to convince everyone around the table that management is kind, generous and thoughtful when it does have money—but it just happens that, as usual, they haven't any. We have patiently listened to variations of that story year after year, and everyone appreciates it as a standing joke.

Next, President Kovenetsky makes a statement for the Union, telling why we must have a wage increase and other changes in the contract. Nobody, including management, is inclined to laugh this off, because it concerns the ability of more than 8,000 men and women to feed, clothe and house themselves and their dependents. This statement of the Union's demands is serious business and sets the tone for the talks to follow.

After the demands have been submitted, the company's bargainer, Mr. Fred Fischer (who is aided by other members of the Labor Relations staff and other "experts") usually asks for time to take the demands back and study them (as though he had never read them in the Local 1-S NEWS two months before!).

At this point the first meeting ends. The time until the next meeting varies with the amount of study management gives the demands. But at the second meeting the company can usually be expected to submit a "counter proposal." Their proposals in the past have generally been an offer of minor concessions provided the Union will agree to drop all its other demands.

From here on, each member of your negotiating committee opens

fire. They go over the reasons for the demand and the real need for them. Mr. Fischer can be counted on to sit and calmly smoke his big cigar and then, after the Union representatives have made their point, come out and say how sorry he is, but the company offer is the very best the company can make at this time, because business is bad, profits are down, etc.

Here, I might point out, we expect the services of an economist to be most useful to us, since we know we can prove beyond a doubt that Macy's is well able to afford to grant every one of our demands.

Day by day the Negotiating Committee forces management to

add to its original counter proposal. Day by day Mr. Fischer says for Macy's, "That's all" in the hopes that at that point the Union will be convinced that we have gotten as much as we can.

Mass pressure, such as demonstrations and strict adherence to such company regulations as handling only one customer at a time, is also reflected at the bargaining table. Management representatives may try to bluff their way by telling us that they are ready to take the worst we can give them, but they won't budge from their offer. But they know, and we know, that any action that calls public notice to an unfair company position—or anything that affects their

ability to make money—hits them where it hurts.

We know that sustained pressure by large numbers of our members definitely supports the position of the negotiating committee, which can be just as tough and just as stubborn as management. For the members of the committee it is important that they know that you are behind them.

For you, it is important that you get this glimpse of what goes on behind the closed doors. Bargaining is a tough process of give and take. With the solid support of every Union member, we have always been able to take more than we give. We know that with your help we can do the same in '52.

Feb. 2 Welfare Affair Best Chance To Dance

Put Marita and Phil Sands together and what do you get? The best evening of continuous music, dancing and fun, money can buy—that's what! And Marita, Queen of the Rhumba and Phil Sands, maestro and drawing card of the Hotel Roosevelt will be put together into a winning combination on Saturday evening, February 2nd at the Park Avenue Armory for the benefit of the Local 1-S Welfare Fund. Tickets are being sold by Stewards in every department.

Anyone looking for a good time cannot afford to miss the wonderful evening that has been carefully planned by Dance Committee Chairman Tony Puca and the many others who have had a hand in fashioning a program which is sure to please the taste of every member, young or not-so-young.

A restaurant and tables on the premises will provide meeting and resting places for the many group parties of friends, co-workers and relatives. Price lists will be on conspicuous display to assure each and every person of the same, fair charges.

The Park Avenue Armory, at 34th Street and Park Avenue provides one of the largest and best dance floors in town. This means that the thousands of members and their guests will be able to relax and enjoy themselves without the usual crowding which marks most affairs of this kind.

Complimentary tickets have been made available to many servicemen's organizations, so that many men in uniform who are either stationed in the New York area or who are in town on leave, will be able to join us for an evening of fun. Said Tony Puca, "Though the stag line may be long, I am certain that our hospitable members will do all they can to make the men welcome."

Discussing the dance at the general membership meeting in January President Sam Kovenetsky said, "We have heard from many departments that they have a 100 per cent record for buying dance tickets, but that many people aren't planning on coming. I hope that every one of them will change his mind and join us at the dance. We will have many distinguished guests with us that night and it would be foolish for us to have to explain that the tickets were a sellout, but the dance a washout. We know that a good time has been planned for all—so whether it is before or after a movie, be sure to come in. If you have a date with other people, bring them with you and they will never stop thanking you. But whatever you do, don't let your Union down."

Tickets are moderately priced at \$1.50 and all proceeds go directly to the Local's Welfare Fund which has done an outstanding job for the sick and needy of the Union.



1-S members took their case to the public on 34th Street as they fought for a raise in 1950.

Union Blasts Protection Charge; Demands And Wins Full Apology



Sam Shields, who is a salesman in Sporting Goods, finished far in front and fully vindicated.

His trouble began on the Saturday evening before Christmas when, as he was preparing to leave the store, he was brusquely told to go to the Protection office. When he asked for an explanation he was informed that he had "violated a store regulation."

Sam says, "I kept insisting that they tell me what rule or regulation I had broken. They finally told me that I didn't have a sales slip pasted on the Christmas box in which my shopping was packed."

"I told that Protection man to go stand at the gate and see if he could find any holiday boxes with the slips pasted on, and his only answer to me was, 'take it easy, I can get you into trouble.'"

"My answer to him was that he had already gotten himself into hot water because I was reporting this case to the Union!"

Fifth Floor Committeeman William Atkinson relayed the story to President Sam Kovenetsky, who lost no time in calling Sam Shields and getting all the facts. No soon-

er was that done than the Union wheels began to grind.

When Vice Presidents George Gurian and Elizabeth Hammond finished with the case Sam Shields had received a personal apology from Protection chief Frank Fay and assurances that if the offend-

ing agent returned to work in the store, he too would apologize.

Sam said, "I knew I had nothing to worry about so long as I had truth and the Union on my side. Everyone did a wonderful job and I am very pleased with the way things worked out."

INVENTORY-NITE LA YOFFS ANGER SYMPATHETIC UNION MEMBERS

"Everybody is furious!", exclaimed Administrator Debbie Valencia as she told of the 9:15 pm layoffs following the heavy, dirty and tiresome evening of inventory work.

Despite the fact that the layoffs occurred strictly in order of seniority, and despite the fact that some of the workers involved had less than six months of service, it was generally felt that the company's approach was an under-handed one.

"On the one hand," Debbie explained, "the company hires in a crew of temporaries to work only one week, including inventory. On the other, they keep people scheduled for layoff only until the minute the dirty work is finished and then tell them to report to the record office."

Previous management explanation for this unpleasant operational method has been to the effect that they don't believe people would work the inventory if

they knew in advance that when it was over they were to be let go.

What the company ignores in this is the fact that almost without exception the people know the additional advantage of each day of seniority. Because each member joining our Union must attend a new member's class, even the newest worker appreciates the importance of accruing as much service as possible.

On this basis, it is the consensus of Union opinion that management is making a serious miscalculation that hurts the workers involved and produces a considerable amount of ill-will.

Miss Valencia said, "Even if the company is right they are wrong not to give the workers a choice. If they can't schedule enough regulars for inventory night they can always hire the additional forces they need. If they hire one hundred, they could double it if the had to and no one would get hurt."

LOCAL 1-S NEWS

Published Twice Monthly by

LOCAL 1-S, UNITED DEPARTMENT STORE WORKERS OF AMERICA, C. I. O.
290 Seventh Avenue New York 1, N. Y.

President: Sam Kovenetsky

1st Vice Pres.: George Gurian — 2nd Vice Pres.: Elizabeth Hammond

Editorial Board

Jerome Harte

Violet McMonagle

David Krakauer

Editor: Dick Pastor

BRANCH STORE NEWS



Dave Markowitz

Joe Ferrari (Men's Store) is back on the job . . . Marion Helgeson, now using her married name of Norin (Sponsor-Slippers) and wearing maternity blouses . . . Theresa Shedlow and Frieda Pariser (Ladies Suits and Coats) out on leave . . . Lil Moscowitz was taken by Helen Riley to a recuperative home. A little mail won't hurt, so drop her a line at Bklyn. Jewish Home for Convalescents, 609 Beach St., Far Rockaway . . . Mrs. Brown and Mrs. Levy, both back on the job, want to thank everyone for their thoughtfulness . . . Hannah Singer promoted from Housewares to Domestics . . . Julius Hendersen from Stock to Soldier boy in the U.S. Army, with our very best wishes for lots of luck . . . Money for the February 2nd dance coming in fast. Get our tickets now or suffer. Last year's was great and this one promises to be even greater . . . There is now only one collector for the Credit Union—Dolores Caserma. I find it impossible to make time for it any more. If you would like to volunteer for the job see Jack Jampole. There should be lots of takers after reading the first dividend report! . . . Sorry to say that Jack Williams (Porter) is still out ill . . . Our Flatbush Divisional Meeting is scheduled for Monday, February 25th. Let's all plan to be there.

WHITE PLAINS

It has been brought to the attention of the Store Committee that there are many members who do not receive the Local I-S NEWS. Anyone in that position should turn his name and correct address in to their Shop Steward. Also pay the buck for 1952! . . . Good news to hear that Vinny Lepore of UPS (the Johnny Ray of the Stock Room) will resume singing lessons and try for the big time real soon . . . We've missed — Marion Gounley (W8) and Yolanda Rich (W10). Both have been out ill for quite some time, but hope to be back in the near future . . . Glad to see that Steve Kayser (W5) has recovered from the virus and is back again . . . Best of luck to Dorothy Carrade (W14) leaving the store to become a fulltime housewife . . . Dick West (W12) and bride will be moving into their new apartment. Also among the lucky few are Albertina (Al) Palta (W12). Both couples have waited quite some time and we wish them the best of luck in their new homes . . . Congratulations to Joe Cohen (W12) who just celebrated his 15th wedding anniversary. May the next 50 be just as happy . . . Joseph Donato happy to announce his engagement to Betty Button of Dobbs Ferry . . . Best of luck Joe . . . Our basketball team is rolling up the victories. Let's support them!



Terry Ciarlo

PARKCHESTER

We have a new father in our midst. Joe Cannone (P9) was presented with a "little Joe" by his wife. Congratulations, Joe . . . The following Parkchester mothers announce, with great pleasure and pride the engagements of their daughters. May Landgram, Dorothy O'Leary, Doris Godnich and Goldie Goldberg. Looks like a big crop of weddings coming along soon. We wish them, one and all, the very best of everything . . . Our condolences to Rose Longa (Men's Furnishings) on the death of her sister . . . For the past number of inventories the store has been scheduled for overtime with no cut-off hour. The schedule was always "until finished." Our Store Committee took this problem up and finally forced the company to clearly state a "cut off hour." We should never have accepted the other system in the first place, and it just to prove that by being alert we can really win the best of working conditions with the help of our Union . . . Our Parkchester Divisional Meeting is scheduled for the Chester house at 6:15 on Monday, February 4th. On the agenda will be the top topic of the day, NEGOTIATIONS! There will be other items of almost equal importance, so be sure to come! The Committee is fighting for more than the one water fountain. We expect to win!

JAMAICA

Looking ahead into our new, and let us hope eventful year, we will try to procure still better working conditions for ourselves. We look to our Union for help in this direction and do our best to support the Union in every possible way . . . We've had some promotions which help get us started in the right direction. John Wooliscroft, formerly in Cameras to Kitchen Furniture, Sal Masso, formerly of Sporting Goods to Camera and Ronnie Kiefer promoted to Sponsor in the Men's Store . . . We all wish Steve Kolsar (J9) the best of luck. Steve has just recently announced his engagement . . . The Shoe men received a beautiful calendar from old shoe dog Max Selinbinder, who is now proprietor of Seeley's Texaco Service Station in sunny (?) California . . . Glad to welcome Miss Prior (Service Desk) and Mary Engel (J3) back and we're happy they're well again . . . Sincerest sympathy to Charlotte Vogel (J5) on the passing of her sister . . . Jim English (J6) and Francis Hall (J19) are out ill and we hope they'll be back at work soon . . . Jean Hryciak (J10) is still recovering from the accident she was in last November. Sure hope you get well soon, Jean . . . Ed Wright (J10) is in the hospital and we are all wishing for a speedy recovery. See you next issue.



Ray Centola

The "State of the Union"

LOCAL I-S NEWS

BACK PAY DUE SOON, RAISE ADDS \$240 TO YEARLY SALARY

KOVENETSKY SLATE SCORES SWEEPING VOTE

1-S GOES CIO BY LANDSLIDE

UNION DEMANDS 2nd ROUND "COST OF LIVING" RAISES

\$67,000 BACK PAY GOES TO MORE THAN 1400 MEMBERS

BOARD APPROVES '52 WAGE, HOUR CONTRACT DEMANDS

CIO CONVENTION BACKS STORE ORGANIZING DRIVE

1-S Set For Yearly Fight On Inequality

1-S Delegates Ask Congress For Price Control; Says—Living Costs Don't Warrant Raise

Union Members Gain By 'Best Ever' Division of \$100,000 Inequality Fund

Union Promotion System Proves Real Protection

Gala Open House Party At New Office December 26

HAPPY NEW YEAR

The healthy and advancing "State of the Union" is reflected in the headlines of the Local I-S NEWS.

(Continued from page 1)

the fact that as a result of a Receiving Department stoppage and a settlement worked out by Vice Presidents George Gurian and Elizabeth Hammond, the company was compelled to distribute and post signs throughout the Receiving Department warning executives that they are not permitted to do staff work under the terms of the Union contract.

One executive has been fired as a result of this vigilant defense of the contract. "But," said Mr. Kovenetsky, "we are more concerned with the higher executive who ordered that person to violate the agreement. We think the wrong person was fired!"

The President again warned the membership "not to fall for Macy's tears and false statements." He

said that in the year 1951 the company had very few layoffs, including Christmas hires from a year ago. This, he said, was not because Macy's is kind hearted, but because business was good and warranted a large labor force.

As the members listened intently, their President told them that there is no question about the company's ability to pay for the improvements in wages, demanded by the Union. He declared that, "millions and millions of dollars are drained out of Macy's New York to support large sections of Macy operations elsewhere in the country. This is mon-

ey that has been earned by members of our Union. This is what we want a larger share of!

"And we can get it," the President said, "because we are not alone. The united strength of CIO has been applied to breaking employer resistance to wage increases and to ripping the lid off wages clamped on by the government. We became part of CIO in 1951 and we are a part of that all-important fight."

Rejecting Defense Mobilizer Wilson's idea that 1952 must be a year of more belt-tightening, Sam Kovenetsky said, "our successes in 1951 clearly showed that the program of Local I-S is supported by the entire membership. We will aid in the defense of our country, but will not sit by and do the sacrificing while management profits reach all-time highs."

1-S Helps "News" Spotlight High Cost of Living

The New York Daily News called us because they had a problem. The difficulty, it turned out, was that they wanted to do a feature story showing how it was almost impossible for a husband and wife and two children of school age to live on less than \$80 a week! They asked if we had any such families and whether they would be willing to help turn the spotlight on the problems created by the rising cost of living.

Our Union records quickly yielded a "model family." When we spoke with Mr. "X" he said that he and his family would consent only if the final article could be checked for accuracy and if, in the article, he would be allowed to give Local I-S credit for helping his family achieve security and survive this inflationary period.

We called the Daily News and told them that those were the conditions on which the "X" family was willing to go along. The terms were accepted and in the not too far off future a Local I-S member will become a symbol of the headaches facing all workers.

In the meanwhile, people may well ask themselves, "If living on close to \$80 is a problem what of the average Macy wage earner who makes less than the New York State average of \$65?" The answer: For higher pay back your Local I-S Negotiating Committee to the limit!

Macy Yields In Overtime Fight in 42

After running a bluff as far as they could management caved in under Union pressure and settled a 42 Department dispute just two days before it was scheduled to go before an impartial arbitrator.

The grievance, first brought before the company last August, protested management's refusal to properly offer 42 Department workers a chance to work overtime when that department was short-handed due to days off and vacation schedules. The Union challenged the company's right to flex 27 Department Pharmacists in without regard to the clear language of the contract.

Management stubbornly maintained that they had a right to send people wherever they chose. They stuck to the story until the last possible minute and then agreed that they were wrong and that it wouldn't happen again.

Said Morris (Doc) Epstein, Executive Board representative, "We are all very pleased about this victory. The people, by their fight, have helped guarantee their rights to overtime and the company, we hope, has learned that we fight to the end when we know we are right."

Promotion Won By Better Job Questionnaire



Local I-S scored another victory over management waste of talent and manpower when Michael Florio, formerly a Herald Square Stockman, won a Display Department job in Parkchester.

Mike, with close to four years of Macy service, had told the company that he was studying display under the G.I. Bill of Rights and asked that he be considered for any opening for which his skill and seniority suited him.

When the Parkchester job became available management claimed that they had no one suited for promotion into the job and were prepared to list it as "open to hire."

Mike Florio tells that, "then the Union went to the Better Job Questionnaire file and, after a thorough search decided that I was the one who deserved a chance at the job. Thanks to the Union I got the chance I've been studying and working for. I think it's terrific and I'm really grateful."

Near Death—"Union Saved My Life", Says Ever-Thankful Member

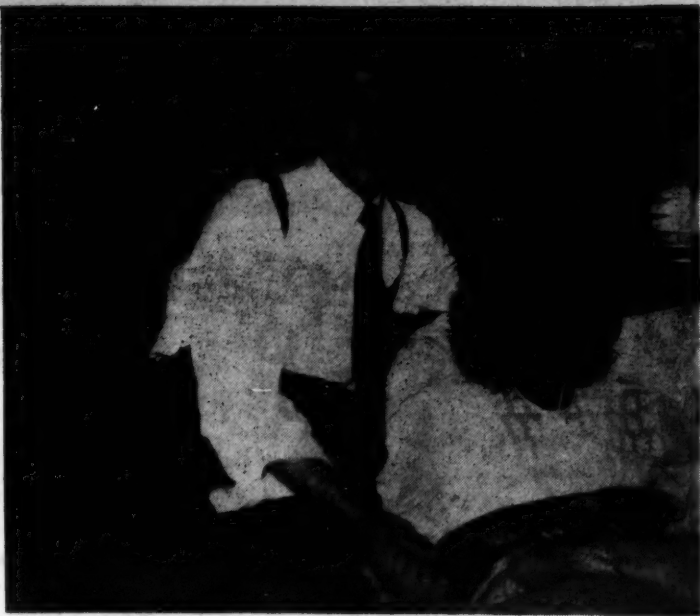
There are thousands of people who will cheerfully admit that the Union has saved their livelihood, but Rita Blaker, of the Jamaica store, is one of the very few who says, "the Union saved my life!"

Rita, who is now convalescing after her unwilling flirtation with the grim reaper, says, "The Union was absolutely wonderful. It is the most marvelous thing in the world to find that you have many friends. It is just about as marvelous to belong to a Union that can save you more than \$1100 in medical, hospital and blood bills, especially when getting large quantities of blood in a hurry made the difference between my life or death."

The friends, the gratitude and the bills came into focus when a specialist advised Rita that she was in immediate need of a very rare and very delicate operation if she was to remain alive. The first operation was a success, but before she had even begun to regain her strength another emergency arose and she underwent a second operation.

Rita's husband, Jack, works in 11 Department, in the Basement at Herald Square. Between Rita's co-workers in Jamaica, and Jack's many friends in New York, they were able to get pledges that will replace the 46 pints of blood that were literally poured into Rita in the fight to keep her alive.

Rita explained to us that authorities believe her condition can be classed as an "occupational dis-



HAPPY DAY. Jack and Rita Blaker relax at home knowing that they have found many new friends and that their Union never let them down.

ease resulting from her inhaling chemical fumes in the course of her work as a demonstrator." But the disease is so rare and the consequences so grave that outstanding professional men are moving with great care in an effort to accurately determine the cause.

Rita has already had several Compensation hearings, and there are likely to be many more before the answer is reached.

As she was being interviewed she kept repeating her astonishment over how wonderful the Union was to her. She couldn't get over having a Union Blood Bank that made available to her the huge total of 46 pints, with absolutely no charge. Neither could she get over the voluntary response

of her Jamaica co-workers and her husband's Basement pals who, learning of her plight put up signs at their time clocks calling for volunteers to replace the blood taken from the Union's Bank.

Rita said, "It was very, very touching. Words can't express my feelings or my thanks, but it was almost worth the horror of my experience to discover how wonderful people really are."

After pausing for a few moments she added, "You know, it's not long ago that I felt fine. Then this happened. I can only hope that when the Union has a Blood Bank drive everyone who feels fine will give a pint. Who knows, the life you save may be your own. I learned that—the hard way."

Full Concert Orchestra Planned By I-S Musicians

A full concert orchestra of musician-members of Local I-S is now in the process of being organized by a provisional committee consisting of Josephine Paine (139 Dept.), Leonard Schoenhaut (69 Dept.) and William Claybourne (91 Dept.).

Goal of the Committee is to bring as many musicians of Local I-S together as possible, with an eye towards full string, woodwind and brass sections that will comprise a full orchestra interested in playing for the pleasure of it.

With several well-qualified men and women to choose from, the group will elect its conductor and a permanent committee at its first meeting which will be held on Friday, February 8 at 7 p.m. at the Union office.

The first gathering, to which all musicians are invited, will be a "business" meeting at which the group's plans will be discussed and a rehearsal schedule decided upon.

Formation of the orchestra will mark the first step toward the re-

alization of a full cultural program which will give trained talented Union members new opportunities to use their skills for their own pleasure and for the entertainment of others.

1-S Knots Extra Pay For Tie-In Of Books & Toys

Despite the "No" answers given by 13 Department's Supervisors and by the Street Floor's Supervisor intended Werneken, the Union has won an additional \$1.50 per person for each week that they add educational toys as well as books.

Vice President George Gurian and Elizabeth Hammond carried the fight to Personnel Chief Fred Fischer who finally over-ruled the other executives who had taken part in processing the grievance and ordered the people be paid the extra compensation. The settlement satisfied all concerned.

official notice Divisional Meetings

The following is the official schedule of Divisional Meetings to be held through the month of February.

All Divisional Meetings will be held at the new Union headquarters, 290 Seventh Avenue.

Straight Comm.	Feb. 4	6:45
Receiving	Feb. 5	6:45
Manufacturing	Feb. 6	PT 4:30 FT 6:45
Comp. Shopping	Feb. 7	6:30
7th Floor	Feb. 11	PT 5:00 FT 6:45
MTE	Feb. 11	6:45
6th Floor	Feb. 12	PT 5:00 FT 6:45
Supply—FSM	Feb. 12	PT 4:30 FT 6:30
ASD	Feb. 13	PT 5:00 FT 6:30
9th Fl. (Salary)	Feb. 13	6:45
Packing	Feb. 18	PT 4:30 FT 6:45
2nd Floor	Feb. 19	PT 5:00 FT 6:45
8th Floor	Feb. 20	PT 5:00 FT 6:45
Basement	Feb. 25	PT 4:30 FT 6:45
DA	Feb. 27	6:30
5th Floor	Mar. 3	6:45

*Meeting in Conference Room

ARBITER OK'S DISCHARGE FOR LATES, AWOL'S

Arbitrator Thomas L. Norton upheld the discharge of William Richmond of 71 Department and cited his failure to improve following a series of cautions and a written warning on his attendance record.

The Arbitrator noted that, "the employee's story about the illness of his mother warrants attention and cannot be lightly dismissed, but..."

The Union had protested the discharge because the poor attendance record resulted from a family problem and because Mr. Richmond's other ratings were meritorious. Said Mr. Norton, "... such a chronic offense was a just cause for discharge."

MEDICAL PLAN — for the name and address of the doctor nearest you CALL the Union Office — WA 4-4540 or Associated Physicians Medical Group — BU 8-4296 (Night or Day). Complete schedule of fees available upon request.

BLOOD BANK — If you need blood from the Blood Bank CALL Elizabeth Hammond at the Union Office — WA 4-4540.

TO THE EDITOR

EDITOR'S NOTE

Many people have come to us and asked, "Can't I just tell you what I think?" and our answer has been "Yes, but we'd rather have you write a letter to the editor!"

We know that people have a lot on their minds these days. We also know that we always feel better when we get some of it off and let others know how and why we feel and think as we do.

We'll make as much room as we have to for any letter that is constructive—that helps strengthen our Union in its day to day fight in the interests of our members. So again we urge, if you have anything to say, speak up so everyone can hear. Write YOUR letter to the editor today!

FANCY RECIPE

This is in response to the request for recipes in a recent issue of the newspaper. My recipe for a Happy New Year.—

INGREDIENTS:

Lower prices
Lower taxes
Higher Wages
Shorter hours
Brotherhood
Tolerance
Peace
Sift carefully and mix thoroughly.

PORTIONS: Serves everybody.
RESULT: Good living. It is guaranteed to cure all ills.

Fraternally yours,
Ann Brown, 13 Dept.

NEGOTIATIONS

You have asked for letters to the paper concerning our coming

negotiations. My opinion is: the 35 hour week is long overdue. Year after year we are forced to work under greater pressure. One worker has to do the work of two or three. Therefore we are entitled to a better deal—shorter hours and a raise in pay to meet the rising

State CIO To Act On Jobless Pay

George Gurian, Local I-S Vice President and delegate to the New York State CIO Council reports that the Council, at its January 15 meeting, set repeal of the Hughes-Brees amendment to the unemployment insurance law as its number one goal during the current legislative session.

The meeting of Union leaders, which was held in Albany, also proposed that unemployment insurance benefits be increased from a \$30 weekly maximum to \$35, with additional benefits for dependents and that eligibility be extended from 26 to 36 weeks.

The CIO program also called for a ban on private insurance companies to "eliminate profits" from the field of workmen's compensation insurance.

cost of living and to gain more security and leisure.

We can get it if we all take an interest in our Union, not just by paying dues, but by expressing ourselves in the paper as to what we would like to see done and, of course, by helping to do it.

Fraternally yours,
Dorothy Gilmore
13 Dept. Shop Steward

HEALTH PLAN NOTE

If you plan to take a leave of absence for more than 30 days or if you leave the store and wish to continue your Health Plan coverage on a direct payment basis YOU MUST see the Local I-S Health Plan Consultant at the Union office within 30 days from the end of the month in which you leave the store. Protect yourself — protect your family — protect your benefits. Be sure to come to the Union office on time!

**FREE
LEGAL AID CLINIC**
Local I-S Attorney
Robert Silagi
at the Union Office
Every Wednesday
5 to 7 PM

PERSONALS

APARTMENT TO SHARE—Lady wanted to share large, modern apartment on West 71st Street. Gas, light, linen and maid service free. Kitchen privileges. \$11 per week. Phone TR 4-9285 after 7 P.M.

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